



A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ March 2006

Spring is just around the corner, a sign it must be time for the **Starlight Music Series**, now in its fifth year of offering the free concert series sponsored by College Station Utilities. The 2006 schedule kicks off April 1 with the music of Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles performed by two tribute bands -- Fleetwood Nicks opening the performance, followed by Hotel California.

Eleven weeks of concerts will continue through late June, with artists ranging from the Bellamy Brothers and Earl Thomas Conley to Trout Fishing in America and Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's. A complete schedule can be accessed from the City's home page (www.cstx.gov).

■ With regard to transportation-related projects, **four-way stops are now in place at Graham and Victoria**. In addition to permanent stop signs and stop bars, temporary "STOP AHEAD" signs were installed on Graham Road approaches to the intersection. Pedestrians crossing Graham to attend or leave one of the area schools are being encouraged to use the bike/pedestrian path adjacent to Cypress Grove Intermediate School that has a crossing guard.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held a public meeting this month to update residents on upcoming construction plans for **improvements for the SH6 frontage road between Deacon and Rock Prairie**. The first phase of the project is scheduled to begin in April and will include an exit ramp at Barron Road to accommodate southbound traffic exiting from Highway 6. Estimated completion time is eight months. The next phase will remove the existing Rock Prairie exit and should be complete by April 2007.

■ In this issue, you will find several stories commending our staff as individuals and departments continue to be singled out for state awards. CSU's **Jennifer Nations** joins that distinguished group next month as she receives a **Watermark Award** from the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association. The Communications Excellence Award recognizes members who have produced top quality communications. Jennifer accepts the award April 6 in Austin for her "Waterwise Landscapes: Beat the Heat without Breaking the Bank."

■ As they say, last but far from least... I would be remiss if I did not mention that I am fortunate to have been appointed City Manager of this wonderful community. During the last six years as Assistant City Manager, I have had the pleasure of working with a remarkable staff -- one dedicated to not only doing their job, but doing it well. Moving one office down the hall allows me to enhance relationships with employees, Council, citizens, Texas A&M University and the many individuals and groups who work with the City of College Station as we set our sights on creating an even better community. I am proud to work for the City of College Station and I sincerely thank the City Council for the opportunity to serve as City Manager.

City Manager



Increased electric costs reflected in PDA charge

Effective this month, College Station Utilities statements will reflect a Power Delivery Adjustment (PDA) charge to compensate for increased costs of electric transmission charges.

"These adjustments are something no one likes, but we hope our customers understand that CSU is one of the most inexpensive electric utilities in Texas," said **David Massey**, Electric Division Manager. "The charge of a half cent per kilowatt hour translates into an increase of approximately \$5 monthly for our average residential customers."

Massey said CSU chose to absorb much of the cost during the past year, but charges for natural gas have been substantially higher than anticipated. To improve cash flow and avoid decreasing reserves, CSU will utilize the PDA fee beginning with the current billing cycle.

The City of College Station utilized a similar fee in previous years to cover fuel which exceeded anticipated costs. That fee (*referred to as the Power Cost Adjustment*) was removed when the need for the fee was eliminated.

Chart below showing residential current rate comparisons with other utilities for March 2006 includes the Power Delivery Adjustment on CSU March bills. Many utilities listed have off-peak rates for November-April. Where applicable, these rates have been used in the comparisons.

UTILITY	RESIDENTIAL MONTHLY ELECTRIC COST		
	TOTAL \$	\$/KWH (1,000 KWH)	% > C.S.
City of College Station	\$ 83.85	\$ 0.0839	0.00%
City of Bryan	\$ 95.15	\$ 0.0952	13.48%
City of San Antonio (CPS Energy)	\$ 98.98	\$ 0.0990	18.04%
Entergy Gulf States, Inc.	\$ 100.04	\$ 0.1000	19.31%
City of Austin (Austin Energy)	\$ 102.54	\$ 0.1025	22.29%
City of Georgetown	\$ 105.80	\$ 0.1058	26.18%
Bluebonnet Electric Co-op.	\$ 112.85	\$ 0.1129	34.59%
City of Caldwell	\$ 113.77	\$ 0.1138	35.68%
City of Brenham	\$ 116.99	\$ 0.1170	39.52%
Mid-South Synergy	\$ 122.50	\$ 0.1225	46.09%
Navasota Valley Electric Co-op.	\$ 127.95	\$ 0.1280	52.59%
TXU SESCO Energy Services	\$ 139.29	\$ 0.1393	66.12%
First Choice Power Retail	\$ 142.54	\$ 0.1425	70.00%
TXU Energy Services Retail	\$ 143.73	\$ 0.1437	71.42%
City of Hearne	\$ 150.20	\$ 0.1502	79.13%
Reliant Energy Retail	\$ 157.90	\$ 0.1579	88.31%
Mutual Energy CPL Retail	\$ 179.74	\$ 0.1797	114.36%
Mutual Energy WTU Retail	\$ 228.75	\$ 0.2288	172.81%

And the winner is...

Highest State Parks and Recreation Award Presented to College Station's Steve Beachy

When you mention Parks in College Station, chances are the name Steve Beachy is the first thought that comes to mind. Working on his third decade as the man in charge of parks and recreation offerings, he has earned a reputation that extends beyond the city limits.

This month he was named as the recipient of the prestigious Daniel Whitworth Fellow Award, the highest award the Texas Parks and Recreation Society (TRAPS) can bestow. The announcement was made March 10 at the annual conference in Fort Worth.

Letters of nomination from throughout Texas supported selection of the man described as "an outstanding role model for all of us and a man who epitomizes the phrase 'public service'." Another noted "his positive influence has taught me to lead by example, be positive, empower and support staff, work hard, and keep a sense of humor." A third mentioned Steve's contribution for the department's statewide reputation as a thriving and exciting operation, yet noted he "never hesitates to send his staff to help regional TRAPS workshops or emergency responses as shown with hurricane relief operations in the Bryan/College Station area."

Described as "a gem of a man" by another supporter, the sheer depth of Steve Beachy's success is described by John Crompton, Distinguished Professor, Texas A&M University: "His legacy is extraordinary. The city now has almost 1200 acres of park land and Steve has laid the groundwork for the acquisition of another 250 acres...The most recent exemplar of his effective leadership is the effort to acquire a magnificent 10,640 acre park which abuts the College Station ETJ. It will be the largest park of any kind, with the exception of the Big Thicket Preserve, serving the 15 million Texans who live east of the Houston-San Antonio-Fort Worth line."

Dr. Crompton added that Beachy's "integrity and sense of fairness are impeccable. There is no personal ego involved in a Beachy decision. There is never any shading of the truth, never a hidden agenda, always a transparent openness and honesty...His word is his bond.



For almost 28 years, Steve Beachy has led the College Station Parks and Recreation Department. This year he was recognized with the highest individual award presented at the Texas Parks and Recreation Society's annual conference. Presenting him the honor is Dona Roth Kinney, President of TRAPS and Director of the Keller Parks and Recreation Department.



Inside College Station...

◆ Phase 2 of Veterans Park and Athletic Complex

was officially dedicated on March 2, Texas Independence Day.

Funding approved in the 2003 bond election will provide six lighted fields (*three for adult soccer and three for adult soft-*

ball); a full service softball concession facility; additional landscaping, restrooms and 411 parking spaces; 500-person capacity group pavilion; and one mile concrete heritage trail.

Estimated completion of the \$7 million project is Fall 2007. Special guests participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were

City of College Station employees representing each of the military services. Participating were (*pictured at left*) **Caanan Blake**, Army, Fire Department; **Tony Ruiz**, Marines, Parks and Recreation; **Peter Lamont**, Navy; Parks and Recreation; **Marita O'Dell**, Air Force, Human Resources; **Carlos Mendez**, Air Force, San Antonio Parks and Recreation; **Paul Price**, Coast Guard, Police.

◆ **Recruiting efforts for the College Station Police Department** will find a familiar face joining the ranks -- that of Texas A&M Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione.

In planning for a new recruiting poster and campaign, officers realized a lot -- 37 to be exact -- of the Police Department employees were graduates of Texas A&M. Many joined **Chief of Police Michael Clancey** this month for a photo opportunity (*below*) designed to target Aggie students and graduates for a career in law enforcement.





Speaking of success...

★ **College Station's Parks and Recreation Department** was a big winner when awards were presented March 10 at the Texas Recreation and Parks Society conference in Fort Worth. Not only did **Steve Beachy**, Director, take home the **top individual award** (*story on page 3*), but the Department was recognized for the **top promotional program in the State of Texas**.

The award honors "the most outstanding promotional efforts...for the past year", with only one department recognized each year. Selection is based on quality of promotional materials, creative use of partnerships within the department, creative use of partnerships within the community and local media; and promotions of a caliber done without benefit of fulltime marketing persons as Parks departments in other cities have. From the calendar distributed each year to partnerships within the department (*aquatics, EXIT Teen Center, Xtra Education, Kids Klub, senior programs, etc.*) to special events such as Christmas in the Park and the Starlight Music Series, judges commented on the professional and uniform appearance of items.



★ **February sales tax receipts** (*January sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,277,137 for the month of February, representing a 9.39% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier.

Tax revenues were projected to grow at or around the 5% trend. The Budget Office will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount.

February FY06 Receipts

\$1,277,137

Actual Difference

Percent Difference

February FY05 Receipts

\$1,167,561

\$109,576

9.39%

FY06 YTD Receipts

\$7,281,333

Actual Difference

Percent Difference

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$6,750,271

\$531,062

7.87%

Pictured above are members of the award-winning College Station Parks and Recreation Department who have added another trophy to their World Headquarters offices: the Promotional Award presented at the Texas Recreation and Parks Society annual conference in Fort Worth.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

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COUNCIL CALENDAR

Thursday, March 23

- Inner Circle Luncheon, Briarcrest CC, 11:45 am
- City Council Workshop, 3 pm
- Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, March 27

- Citizens University, 5:30 pm
- Police Awards Program, Hilton, 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 30

- 2006 Women of Distinction Banquet, Hilton, 6 pm

March 30-31

- Tex-21 Dinner, Killeen

Saturday, April 1

- Starlight Music Series opens, Fleetwood Nicks and Hotel California, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 5

- John Crompton Park Dedication, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 8

- TAMU Parents Weekend
- CSPD Egg Hunt at Bush Library, 9:30 am
- Maroon & White Scrimmage, Kyle Field, 2 pm

Thursday, April 13

- City Council Workshop, 3 pm
- Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Friday, April 14

- Good Friday Holiday (city offices closed)
- Lincoln Center Egg Hunt, 1-3 pm

Shining moments...

★ Letter to **Joey Dunn, Director of Planning and Development Services:** *"I simply wanted to voice my praise of the Building Permit and Inspection Department. Specifically, the ladies who answer the phone (I won't name them for fear of leaving someone out) are always very pleasant, helpful, professional and easy to conduct business with. They make this part of my job a positive and easy experience. I don't believe that I have dealt with a better group of people in any other building departments.*

"I also want to commend those responsible for creating and executing the permit and inspection process. While there will always be room for improvement, I must say that the City of College Station currently has one of the simplest and most dependable inspection programs that I have ever used. I really have been spoiled, and I did not realize this until recently after dealing with another building department. I thought that it was the norm to be able to call in an inspection in the morning and receive it by the afternoon. I was wrong. Your system, those leading it, and the inspectors are dependable which again makes my job of scheduling work tremendously easier.

Last but not least, I want to pass along an attaboy to Terry Boriskie. He has been very helpful in assisting me with some of the new code requirements and has taken the time on numerous occasions to review and discuss our building plans. That may be part of his job description, but he does it in a helpful, positive and efficient manner. Thanks for all the hard work." --**Jason LaFollette**, LaFollette Construction Inc.

★ Letter complimenting CSU crew (**Gerardo Ovalle, Keith Tinker, Ryan Eubanks, Tina Roberts**): *"I speak from experience when I say that being in a service profession is no easy task, especially when you make yourself available anytime during the night or day. As a former owner of a home remodeling business and now a fulltime veterinary student, I've constantly made myself available for those who needed help...*

"But the tables were recently turned and I was that client who needed help from your department. I was greeted on the phone by a pleasant woman who understood my situation and showed a great deal of caring in her voice, ensuring me that help was on the way. Jerry soon showed up at my back door and met me with a smile and a handshake. He quickly went to work shutting down the water mains after consulting his map. I was somewhat taken back by his undisturbed, mild mannered and very understanding attitude. He did not express any resentment for being called out so late at night, a Friday night so late no less. In fact, he seemed more than happy to help out and was ready to get the job done. Soon after, Ryan and Keith arrived and jumped right in. Teamwork among them was apparent, and their knowledge of their profession shined. It was seen in the way that they analyzed what had happened, what had already been done to remedy the situation, and then divvied up the task that still needed to be completed. It what seemed like no time at all, I was fixed up, my water back on, and they were hopefully off to a quiet evening.

"Unfortunately, I did not get the woman's name on the phone, but I hope you can find out for me and thank her for her services. Jerry, Ryan and Keith showed extreme professionalism, dedication, and exhibited thorough knowledge of their profession. It is comforting as a customer to know that these individuals are available and ready to help, should the situation arise. Their actions reflected great credit upon themselves, your department, and that of College Station Utilities." -- **James O'Bryan**, College Station resident

